

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 PM-03 SP-02 INR-05 INRE-00

NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 L-01 H-01 EB-03 /041 R

DRAFTED BY ARA-LA/E: WSCLARKE:GFH

APPROVED BY ARA - WILLIAM D. ROGERS

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O P 211508Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 146676

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, EC

SUBJECT: LST SALE TO ECUADOR

FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

1. I MET THIS AFTERNOON JUNE 20 WITH AMBASSADOR CARDENAS TO INFORM HIM OF THE STRONG CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION TO THE SALE OF THE LST "SUTTER CITY" TO ECUADOR. CARDENAS WAS GENERALLY AWARE OF THE PROBLEM AND HAD TRANSMITTED INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE VOTE ON THE SUBJECT TO HIS GOVERNMENT.

2. I POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT IN OUR POLITICAL JUDGMENT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO DELAY FURTHER ACTION ON THIS TRANSFER FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD, WITH THE HOPE THAT BY DEFUSING COMMITTEE SENTIMENT ON THE SALE WE COULD CONTINUE TO MOVE FORWARD IN OTHER AREAS, ESPECIALLY ON THE PRESIDENTIAL WAIVER. CARDENAS SAID THAT THIS WOULD BE A HARD MATTER FOR HIS GOVERNMENT TO SWALLOW, BUT HE CONFIDENTIAL

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WOULD ENDEAVOR TO EXPLAIN IT TO HIS MINISTRY DURING THE COURSE OF HIS CONSULTATIONS.

3. IT IS MY INTENTION TO TALK TO ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN PRICE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS TO INFORM HIM
OF OUR PLANS TO TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION ON THE LST CASE
FOR THE TIME BEING AND TO PERSUADE HIM TO SUSPEND ACTION
ON A BILL PROPOSED BY REPRESENTATIVES SHROEDER AND MCDON-
ALD WHICH COULD BLOCK THE SALE. KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

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